

7. Porchester Terrace
London. W. 2

Sept. 20, 1949

Ref. ACF: JM: AB (G)

Alan Frank Esq
Music Editor
Oxford University Press
38a Soho Square
London. W.1

Dear Mr Frank

I owe you a very deep apology indeed in that two kind letters from you have lain unanswered until now. Such a thing ought not to have happened, and I am more than sorry. But I have just come through one of the hardest and saddest experiences of my life. My only remaining sister died three weeks ago after a long, cruel illness, and her husband is so ill that I don't think he will long survive her. For the time being I felt rather shattered, but I am now gathering together my strength and courage again and to concentrate on my work will be a help.

(Please excuse this bad typing .)

I. HAYDN.

You kindly asked me for an approximate date by which I think my book on him will be ready. When you proposed two years ago that I should write this book on Haydn for the Oxford University Press you gave five years as the time in which to do it. That has held good with me, and therefore I do not think I could promise an earlier date for its completion, though if I can finish it sooner, I will.

The Haydn opera you mention is really Il mondo della Luna (1777), based on a libretto by Goldoni. It was translated into German and published in 1932 as Die Welt auf dem Monde, edited by Treichlinger and Lothar. So far I have not got a copy of it, though I have another Haydn comic opera -- Lo Speciale.

2. Ivor Gurney's Songs.

I do rejoice to hear that the Publisher (Oxford University Press) has agreed to take on a third album of Gurney's songs, and that there are to be ten songs in it, as before. That is fine news indeed.

As regards the selection of the songs I agree fully with you that ' Even such is Time ' is the one to leave out. The other song you mention ' Love shakes my soul, ' about which you feel doubtful, was put in at Mr Pinzi's suggestion for the sake of contrast, but neither he nor I are at all set upon it. So I am going to send you some other Gurney songs from which to choose a substitute as soon as I can get them out of the Bank.

I am so glad you are going to include a photograph of Gurney, as before, and if, on further consideration, a new preface seems advisable,

I will write it with pleasure after consultation with you.

On the question of the business terms I realise clearly how much conditions have changed since the earlier volumes of Gurney songs were issued and I am quite prepared to accept the modification of the terms you propose - namely, that instead of the former higher royalties the Oxford University Press will pay on this volume of ten songs the O.U.P.s present standard royalty of 10 % of the published price on all copies sold in the United Kingdom and 5 % on all copies sold elsewhere.

Yes; so far as my memory goes the poets concerned in the previous volumes gave free permission for their words to be used. I believe the arrangements were made with them direct by the O.U.P. and the poets gave their ~~prp~~ permission with especial willingness because they regarded the volumes as a memorial to Ivor Gurney. I hope very much that any poets who are concerned now, or their representatives, may be equally generous. I know how sympathetic Mrs Edward Thomas has always been to Gurney and his work.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely